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(b) whether the reports of the respective committees have been received by the Government; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in publishing the reports and passing orders on the same?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The report of the Committee on municipal administration has been received; the Committee on district board administration has not yet concluded its labours and its report is awaited.

" (c) The various recommendations of the Committee on municipal administration had to be examined in detail in consultation with the heads of departments concerned. Government will shortly take a decision on them after which the question of issuing a white paper with a copy of the report appended to it will be considered."

Elections to the Madras Corporation.

* 9 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the general elections to the Madras Corporation were last held;

(b) when the next elections to the Madras Corporation are due to be held;

(c) whether arrangements have been made to have the elections conducted accordingly; and

(d) whether the elections are proposed to be held on the basis of adult franchise?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" (a) The general elections to the Madras Corporation were last held in August-September 1948.

" (b) The term of office of the councillors and aldermen was extended by legislation up to 1st November 1952. The next elections are due to be held in August-September 1952.

" (c) & (d) Yes."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the resolution passed by the Corporation of Madras for the postponement of elections and for redistribution of electoral divisions? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" Redistribution of electoral divisions is not necessary, and elections to the Madras Corporation can be held."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether reservation of seats for minorities would continue for the Corporation elections this year? "

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THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" It will continue, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any proposal to abolish the pocket boroughs for a few privileged persons in the seats provided for the Nattukottai Chettiars' Association, the Chambers of Commerce and other special interests? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" They are continuing for this election. I do not know what the hon. Member means by a ' pocket borough ' ? "

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" May I know whether the electoral rolls have been modified or revised since the last Assembly elections took place? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" The Assembly rolls will be used for the Corporation elections also. They have been revised according to the divisions of the Corporation."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it correct, Sir, that under the ordinary territorial constituency as many as 20,000 people elect one Member while a few hundred persons in the Chambers of Commerce and the Nattukottai Chettiars' Association elect a Member each? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" The existing arrangements will continue for this election."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are keeping separate electorates for Muslims, Christians, etc., under the existing arrangements? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" The existing separate electorates are continued, Sir."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" Have the Government any idea of abolishing separate electorates as they have done in the case of Assembly elections? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—" That will be done in due course."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

ANNOUNCEMENT *re* THE MADRAS REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL, 1952, (L.A. BILL NO. 3 OF 1952) (AS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY).

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 28th June 1952, from the Hon. the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :— 4-15 p.m

' I transmit a copy of the Madras Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1952), (as passed by the Assembly) on the 28th June 1952 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.' "